COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WASHINGTON, D.C.

PROPERTY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Vol. 3, No. 10 February 4, 1967

FEB 13 1967

President Seeks GI Bill For Vietnam Conflict Vets

President Johnson has proposed to Congress "The Vietnam Conflict Servicemen and Veterans Act of 1967," which would increase educational allowances, pensions and government insurance.

The President said that members of the Armed Forces are fighting today and "it is essential that we convey to them—and to all Americans—our full recognition and gratitude for their service in Vietnam and in other troubled areas of the world."

The President made the following proposals:

- That single Vietnam veterans receive a $130 monthly subsistence allowance when using education benefits instead of the current $100. That married veterans continue to receive $130 with $10 monthly added for the second child and each additional child.
- Provision that any education time used to complete high school would not be charged against college eligibility earned, as is the case now.
- A 5.4 percent increase in the pensions of 1.4 million veterans, widows and dependents, effective July 1.
- An increase in the current $10,000 government life insurance maximum to a minimum $12,000, "with higher amounts scaled to the pay of the serviceman—up to a maximum of $30,000."
- Full wartime disability rates, including a $1,600 automobile grant to veterans with special disabilities.

The President's special message also contained hazard duty pay, certain medical benefits and travel expense for home leave for civilian employees of DOD, AID, USIA and State Dept. who are serving in the war zone.

President Asks All Agencies to Aid In Air Pollution Control Development

President Johnson has directed all federal installations to pioneer the way in air pollution R&D efforts to help develop more effective pollution control elsewhere.

By executive order the President placed the federal government's effort under the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. At the same time, he recommended to the new Congress the Air Quality Act of 1967 "to move forward in our attack against air pollution."

AIR CHIEFS VISIT—Gen. Hirakuni Muta (left), chief of staff of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force, is welcomed by Gen. Maurice A. Preston, USAF, Commander in Chief, U.S. Air Force Europe, upon his arrival at Wiesbaden AB, Germany. Gen. Muta was in Germany for an official visit with German Air Force officials and stopped at Wiesbaden to renew acquaintance with Gen. Preston, who was Fifth Air Force commander in Japan prior to his present assignment.

NASA Continues Probe Of Apollo Astronaut Tragedy

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials are conducting the long, complicated task of dismantling the Apollo 204 launch complex in an effort to determine cause of the tragic blaze that took the lives of three of America's astronauts.

While the nation mourned the deaths of Air Force Lieutenant Colonels Virgil (Gus) Grissom and Edward H. White II and Navy Lieutenant Commander Roger Chaffee, NASA opened the first phases of its investigation into the flash fire that all but destroyed the three-man spacecraft less than a month before its scheduled launch.

Buried at Arlington National Cemetery Jan. 31 were Grissom, one of the original seven astronauts, and Chaffee, a third generation space pilot. White, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, was buried at West Point.

The three men were in the final minutes of a full-scale practice countdown atop the large Saturn I rocket at Cape Kennedy when the fire broke out.

Washington Memos

NUCLEAR TEST BAN treaty signed in late January was hailed by President Johnson as keeping "the ugly and wasteful weapons of mass destruction from contaminating space." He said it also means orbiting manmade satellites will remain free of nuclear weapons. He expressed hope the same wisdom that gave us nuclear test ban might also guide us to seek solutions to many problems on Earth.

DOD STATISTICS REVEAL 6,978 U.S. service personnel lost their lives in RVN through hostile force actions from Jan. 1, 1961 through Jan. 26, 1967. An additional 1,603 lost their lives from non-hostile action causes.

NO COST REDUCTION let-up is forseen by Defense Secretary McNamara, who thinks Vietnam conflict will intensify effort. He said goal is for DOD reporting components to recommend their own cost reduction goals, with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Logistics evaluating their reasonableness. Mr. McNamara pointed out that between July 1961 and July 1966 Defense Department saved $14 billion or about five cents of each dollar appropriated in that period.

DOCTOR'S DRAFT CALL will number 2,118 doctors of medicine and 111 doctors of osteopathy. DOD said number of physicians who have volunteered for active duty in Army and Navy has not been sufficient to replace doctors who finish their obligated service this summer and return to civilian life. Air Force is not participating in this summer's draft call because it has procured enough doctors to meet its requirements. Call, which begins in July of this year, breaks down into 1,537 doctors for Army and 692 for Navy.

NEW ARPA DEPUTY is Dr. Peter Franken, formerly of the University of Michigan, who will replace Dr. Robert Frosch as Deputy Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency, within Department of Defense. Dr. Frosch has been appointed Assistant Secretary of Navy for Research and Development.

NEW TINY TWO-WAY radio for crew rescue and survival operations will be tested by Air Force Avionics Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, early this spring. Experimental radio transmits and receives voice and tone signals and resembles transistor radio. Equipment was designed for use during "spacewalks" by astronauts.

FORMER U.S. MILITARY Academy football all-American and Heisman Trophy winner, Capt. Peter M. Dawkins, received Joint Service Commendation Medal for meritorious service for outstanding performance of duties while attached to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, RVN. Capt. Dawkins currently serves as an instructor in Dept. of Social Sciences there.

NASA PLANS TO shoot 18 sounding rockets into Earth's upper atmosphere —between 12 and 124 miles high—to measure wind directions, speeds, atmospheric temperatures, densities and pressures. Firings of 12 NIKE APACHE rockets from Churchill Research Range in Manitoba, Canada and six NIKE CAJUNS from Point Barrow, Alaska started in late January and will end in early February.

NFL FOOTBALL STARS Don Meredith of Dallas Cowboys, Dick Bass of Los Angeles Rams and Larry Wilson of St. Louis Cardinals began 17-day visit of troops in Vietnam in late January. Hard on heels of pro stars, beginning Feb. 10, will be Vietnam tour by Louis Cottrell's Dixieland Jazz Band. Both USO shows are sponsored by the Hollywood Overseas Committee.

NAVY SAVED $3.4 million by substituting plastic shipping plugs for steel forgings in bombs shipped to Vietnam. Not only is plug price lower but also shipping weight and shipping costs.

SOUTHEAST ASIA DEMANDS and continuing study of peacetime force requirements will bring changes in structure of Army's artillery battalions. Vietnam experience shows artillery battalions should contain more heavy 8" howitzers and 175mm gun battalions. Significant portion of artillery battalion increase during FY68 will be of these types.

"YOUR FEDERAL INCOME TAX," 1967 edition is now available. New edition defines what income is taxable and what items may be deducted. Publication may be purchased for 50-cents from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Order Catalog No. T22.44:967.

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND in Maryland will get a new $2.8 million headquarters building. Construction is set for early this year. When completed, building will be 2½ stories with 156,000 square feet office space and will house an estimated 1,000 persons.

AIR FORCE IS looking for officer applicants for Aug. 28 class of the Defense Intelligence Course at Navy Yard Annex, Washington, D.C. Majors, captains and first lieutenants who do not have an intelligence AFSC and have not completed course are eligible. Application procedures are outlined in AFM 50-5.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by Press Division Armed Forces News Bureau, 1117 No. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

FY68 Defense Budget Seeks $23.6 Billion for Army

Army's $23.6 billion request in the Defense Department's FY68 budget earmarks more than one-fifth of the total for procurement of aircraft, missiles, vehicles, ordnance and related equipment.

Increased firepower is called for with a $769 million missile request. This includes the TOW anti-tank missile, the tank-mounted Shillelagh and the surface-to-surface Lance.

Aircraft procurement, $769 million, includes continued purchase of the Iroquois, the CH-54 "Flying Crane" and the Cobra.

A $425 million price tag is attached to the request for tracked combat vehicles. Ordnance, vehicles and related equipment will cost $2.8 billion.

Some $1.5 billion is slated for research, development, testing and evaluation. This includes $706 million for missiles and $309 million for "other equipment."

The military construction request for active forces is $592 million.

Greatest budget amounts are for military personnel and operation and maintenance. The request calls for an estimated FY68 year-end strength of 1,520,000, costing $7.9 billion for active and $642 million for reserve forces. The operation and maintenance request is $7.3 billion.

Reserve components paid drill strength will be 400,000 National Guard and 260,000 Army Reserve.

Poseidon Missile, Ship Construction Highlight Navy Share of FY68 Budget

Navy's $21.1 billion portion of the requested FY68 Defense budget includes $1.1 billion for the Poseidon missile, a weapon system designed to increase this country's ability to penetrate an aggressor's defenses.

In the overall research, development, test and evaluation program Navy has requested $1.9 billion for FY68.

The budget calls for improvement in Navy's general purpose forces, including construction of 27 new ships and conversion of 17 others.

Funds are also included for procurement of long lead-time items for a third nuclear attack carrier, with an authorization request to be included in the FY69 budget.

The budget request allocates money for initial purchase of the F-111B tactical aircraft.

Procurement of three new nuclear-powered attack submarines, 10 destroyer escorts, and two surface-to-air missile destroyers are budgeted for as part of the Navy's continued emphasis on defense against submarine and air attack. Mine warfare capabilities also will be increased by the new construction of seven ocean minesweepers.

VIETNAM INSPECTION—General Earle G. Wheeler, USA (center), chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, inspects 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi, RVN. Accompanying Gen. Wheeler is Maj. Gen. Fred C. Weyand (left), division commander, and Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman, commander II Field Force, RVN.

Tactical Air Superiority Gets Major Emphasis in AF Budget

Improvement and expansion of the U.S. ICBM force, further development of space systems and renewed emphasis on air-mobility accounts for Air Force's $24.8 billion portion of the FY68 Defense budget request.

Air Force has requested $379.3 million for ballistic missiles. This includes procurement of the new Minuteman III and improved penetration and payload capabilities of the present Minuteman force.

Money is also requested for research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) of an advanced intercontinental missile.

In a related area, funds are sought for further work on engine development and avionic development of the Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft (AMSA). Also, the funds requested for work on the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) are almost doubled.

The budget request insures "that the present superiority of our tactical air forces will be maintained in the future."

The request includes funds for additional procurement of the new F-111A variable-swept wing fighter.

Money also is requested for additional procurement of the long-range C-5A transport aircraft that should be able to do the work of four C-141 transports.

In all areas of RDT&E the Air Force has projected $3.4 billion, including $1.1 billion for astronautics.

FMF Pacific Commander Recounts Activities Of Marines in Vietnam

Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak, Fleet Marine Force Pacific commander, told a Pentagon news conference he sees much progress in Vietnam.

"We are doing the right things; we are doing them the right way; and we are getting results," he said.

He pointed out that 71 villages in the Marine Corps area now have defense forces. He also said 51 villages now have a mayor who is willing to live there, whereas a year ago they had no mayors at all.

Another index of progress was that 117,000 Vietnamese civilians left Viet Cong controlled areas last year to come under Marine Corps protection, "voting with their lives," as the general put it.

Gen. Krulak said Combined Action Platoons—two-thirds Vietnamese Militia and one-third Marines living and fighting together — have conducted more than 20,000 offensive patrols and ambushes during the past year.

He said the Marines now have 62 such platoons, are forming 12 more, but had only five like units a year ago.

Air Force Promotion Quota Increases for Top EMs

Air Force has authorized 6,075 top-two NCO promotions for FY67 selection, effective April 1.

The quota includes 4,525 to Senior Master Sergeant (E-8) and 1,550 to Chief Master Sergeant (E-9).

Nearly double the quota of FY66, the higher allocation is made possible by an increased Department of Defense manpower ceiling and retirements over the past year.

The E-8 selection board is scheduled to convene Jan. 30 and an E-9 board Feb. 27. Both boards will meet at Air Force Military Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex.

BRONZE STAR—Lt. Gilliam Dunn, USN (right), receives the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V from RAdm. John J. Lynch, Chief of Naval Air Basic Training, at NAS Pensacola, Fla. Lt. Dunn earned the medal for his participation in several combat operations under enemy fire in Vietnam. He is now crash crew officer at Pensacola.

Medal of Honor Awarded Posthumously To Marine Lieutenant

Marine Corps 1st Lt. Frank S. Reasoner was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism in July 1965 in giving his life under fire in Vietnam to save the lives of his wounded comrades.

The lieutenant's wife and three-year-old son received the nation's highest award from Navy Secretary Paul H. Nitze at Jan. 31 Pentagon ceremonies. Also attending the ceremony were some of the Marines who served with Lt. Reasoner in Vietnam.

Citation read, in part, "from the initial moments of the engagement, he unhesitatingly and continuously exposed himself to machine gun and small arms fire."

It also pointed out that Lt. Reasoner was killed trying to reach his wounded radio operator even though he realized he could not survive the heavy fire sweeping the ground between him and the wounded man.

First Step Completed In Military Pay Study

Initial findings on a DOD military pay study are expected to reach the President's desk during the coming year.

Defense Secretary McNamara told Congress a data-gathering first step to correlate earnings of both officer and enlisted personnel with those of their civilian counterparts already has been completed.

But the Defense Secretary said a full evaluation of this information is needed and that "we will then be able to determine the adjustments required to keep the compensation of our military personnel competitive with that offered in the civilian sector of the economy.

"We would like to see retired pay become a more effective incentive for those making their first reenlistment decisions, as well as for those whom we desire to retain in service beyond the point of retirement eligibility."

Manpower Increase Will Maintain RVN Rotations

A large part of the Defense-wide 77,000 increase in military manpower for FY68—about 50,000 spaces for the Army—was made to sustain an adequate rotation base in Vietnam.

"The general policy for all services is that no individual, except those who volunteer, will be reassigned to a second tour in Vietnam until all others available in the same specialty and grade have served initial tours," Defense Secretary McNamara said.

Testifying before Congress recently, Mr. McNamara said a 12-month tour is standard for most military personnel. He mentioned certain exceptions, however, such as land-based aircraft crew members whose tours are measured per sortie flown and Navy personnel afloat and members of Construction Battalions who rotate with their ships or units.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.